

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTO 00803 181753Z  
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-13 /074 W  
-----190417 097993 /20

R 181715Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9734  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 803

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, DR, SF  
SUBJECT: POLITICAL AMBITIONS OF DR. CHRISTIAN BARNARD

1. DURING RECENT DINNER IN HIS HONOR, DR. CHRISTIAN BARNARD DREW ME ASIDE TO EXPLAIN THAT SOME SIX OR SEVEN SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONALS WERE PRISONERS OF WAR IN ANGOLA. AN ATTRACTIVE, INTENSE AND SOMEWHAT FERVENT MAN, DR. BARNARD EXPRESSED HIS CONFIDENCE THAT WERE HE ONLY ABLE TO SIT DOWN WITH PRIME MINISTER CASTRO HE WOULD CONVINCE HIM TO RELEASE THE PRISONERS. SINCE HE (DR. BARNARD) WAS NOW SO CLOSE TO CUBA FOR A FEW DAYS, HE WONDERED WHETHER I COULD ASSIST HIM IN HIS PROJECT TO VISIT CASTRO. I REPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH THE U.S. WAS SIGNALING ITS INTEREST IN NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH CUBA, ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR GOAL WAS HIGHLY UNLIKELY DURING THE TIME OF HIS STAY IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. DR. BARNARD PERSISTED THAT THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR, ALSO PRESENT AT THE DINNER, HAD SUGGESTED THAT HE SEND CASTRO A CABLE REQUESTING THE INTERVIEW. I REPLIED THAT SINCE THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR HAD SERVED IN CUBA PRIOR TO ARRIVING IN SANTO DOMINGO, HE WAS IN A BETTER POSITION THAN I TO OFFER ADVICE ON THE MATTER.

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2. I ASKED DR. BARNARD WHAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS DOING TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF THE PRISONERS. HE REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH HIS GOVERNMENT. HE CONFIDED THAT HE PLANNED TO ENTER SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICS (HE HAD JUST PUBLISHED A POLITICAL TREATISE, HE SAID), BUT FAME AS A HEART SURGEON WAS INSUFFICIENT BASIS FOR WIDESPREAD POLITICAL SUPPORT. IF HE WERE SUCCESSFUL IN

OBTAINING RELEASE OF THE PRISONERS, HOWEVER, HE CONTINUED,  
HIS STOCK WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE ENHANCED. I CHANGED THE  
SUBJECT.  
HURWITCH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL PRISONERS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POLITICAL AMBITIONS OF DR. CHRISTIAN BARNARD  
**TAGS:** PINT, DR, SF, (BARNARD, CHRISTIAN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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